IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 7, 26, 28 and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. and 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An information processing device comprising:

a communication unit adapted to communicate with a server via a network;

a portable-information-storage-medium connection unit to which a portable information storage medium is connectable, wherein the portable information storage medium stores information identifying software to be acquired via [[a]] the network from [[a]] the server, and has a low capacity for storing the information without storing the software;

a detecting unit adapted to detect whether the portable information storage medium is connected by the portable-information-storage-medium connection unit;

a reading unit adapted to read the information identifying the software when the connection of the portable information storage medium is detected by the detecting unit;

a sending unit adapted to send the information identifying the software read by the reading unit to the server through the communication unit;

an information transfer unit adapted to automatically download the software from the server into an internal storage medium; via the network into a storage medium in accordance with the identifying information stored on the portable information storage medium;

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a software storage unit adapted to store the software into a software storage area of the internal storage medium, wherein the software is automatically downloaded into the internal storage medium;

a software management unit adapted to manage the software stored in the software storage area; ~~downloaded into the storage medium; and~~

an unloading detecting unit adapted to detect an unload of the portable information storage medium; and

a deleting unit adapted to delete the software stored into the software storage area when the unload is detected by the unloading detecting unit.

~~an external-storage-medium reading unit adapted to read predetermined information written in the portable information storage medium when the portable information storage medium is connected to said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit.~~

4. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein, from the ~~predetermined~~ information identifying the software read from the portable information storage medium, software identification information and location information [[on]] of a location on the network of the software are extracted and managed by said software management unit.

5. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 4, wherein, based on an instruction from said software management unit, said information transfer unit accesses the server by using the location information, and downloads, into the internal storage medium, software represented by the software identification information.

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6. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein said software management unit performs a software activating process for executing the software downloaded into the <u>internal</u> storage medium.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected from said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit while the software downloaded into the <u>internal</u> storage medium is being executed, said software management unit performs a medium-unloading warning process, for warning a user by interrupting execution of the software downloaded into the <u>internal</u> storage medium, and a user-input accepting process, for activating a user-input accepting state after the medium-unloading warning process is performed.

9. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 8, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is connected again after the medium-unloading warning process is performed, said software management unit performs an execution restarting process for restarting execution of the software.

10. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 8, wherein, when the user selects termination of execution of the software in the user-input accepting state, said software management unit terminates execution of the software, and subsequently performs a software deletion process.

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11. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected from said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit while the software downloaded into the internal storage medium is being executed, said software management unit continues execution of the software, and, when execution of the software is subsequently terminated by a user, said software management unit performs a process for deleting the software from the internal storage medium.

12. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein:

the internal storage medium includes a nonvolatile memory, a volatile memory, and internal storage;

said software management unit stores a device identification in the nonvolatile memory and stores user information, which is written by a user, in the internal storage; and

after the portable information storage medium connected to said portable-information-storage-medium connection unit, said software management unit examines whether or not the device identification and the user information are written in the portable information storage medium, and, when the device identification and the user information are not written, said software management unit writes the device identification and the user information into the portable information storage medium.

13. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 12, wherein, after the portable information storage medium is connected to said portable-information-storage-medium connection unit, said software management unit examines whether or not the device identification and the user information are written in

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the portable information storage medium, and, when the device identification and the user information are written, and said software management unit finds, by comparing a device identification stored internally in said information processing device and the device identification written in the portable information storage medium, identity between both device identifications, said software management unit initiates accessing of the server ~~terminal~~.

14. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 4, wherein, when software represented by the software identification information is not downloaded into the <u>internal</u> storage medium, said software management unit executes a process for downloading the software into the <u>internal</u> storage medium.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 14, wherein, after the software is downloaded into the <u>internal</u> storage medium, said software management unit performs a process for executing the downloaded software.

16. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 4, wherein:

when software represented by the software identification information is downloaded into the <u>internal</u> storage medium, said software management unit performs a process for comparing a version of software stored in the server and a version of software stored in the <u>internal</u> storage medium;

said software management unit performs a process for initiating execution of the software in the <u>internal</u> storage medium when both versions match each other; and

when the version of the software stored in the server is newer than the version in the <u>internal</u> storage medium, said software management unit performs a process

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that, after downloading the software from the server into the <u>internal</u> storage medium, initiates execution of the downloaded software.

17. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein:

when the software is terminated while the portable information storage medium is being loaded into said portable-information-storage-medium connecting unit, said software management unit displays, on a menu screen, an option for reactivating the software so that the software can be reactivated by input from a user; and

when the portable information storage medium is unloaded after the software is terminated, said software management unit performs a process for deleting the option for reactivating the software from the menu screen so that reactivation of the software cannot be performed in response to input from a user.

18. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 8, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected while the software is being executed, said software management unit performs a process for interrupting execution of the software, and, when the portable information storage medium is subsequently connected again after performing the warning process and activating the user-input accepting state, said software management unit executes a process for restarting execution of the software.

19. (Currently Amended) An information processing device according to Claim 8, wherein, when [[a]] the user selects termination of execution of the software in the user-input accepting state, said software management unit performs a process for terminating execution of the software, a process for deleting an option for reactivating the

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software from a menu screen, and a process for preventing reactivation of the software in response to input from a user.

20. (Original) An information processing device according to Claim 3, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is unloaded while the software is being executed, said software management unit continues execution of the software, and, when a user terminates execution of the software, said software management unit performs a process for deleting an option for reactivating the software from a menu screen, so that reactivation of the software cannot be performed in response to input from a user.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:

a communication step of communicating with a server via a network;

a portable-information-storage-medium connection step of connecting a portable information storage medium to a portable-information-storage-medium connection unit, wherein the portable information storage medium stores information identifying software to be acquired via [[a]] the network from [[a]] the server, and has a low capacity for storing the information without storing the software;

a detecting step of detecting whether the portable information storage medium is connected by the portable-information-storage-medium connection unit;

a reading step of reading the information identifying the software when the connection of the portable information storage medium is detected by the detecting step;

a sending step of sending the information identifying the software read by the reading step to the server through the communication step;

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~~a reading step of reading predetermined information written in the portable information storage medium when the portable information storage medium is connected in said portable-information-storage-medium connection step;~~

an information transfer step of automatically downloading the software from the server <u>into an internal storage medium;</u> ~~via the network in accordance with the identifying information stored on the portable information storage medium;~~

a software storage step of storing, ~~in an internal storage medium,~~ the software <u>into a software storage area of the internal storage medium, wherein the software is automatically downloaded into the internal storage medium;</u> ~~downloaded in said information transfer step; and~~

a software management step of managing the software stored in the software storage area<u>;</u>

<u>an unloading detecting step of detecting an unload of the portable information storage medium; and</u>

<u>a deleting step of deleting the software stored in the software storage step when the unload is detected by the unloading detecting step.</u>

23.   (Original) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for controlling a computer to execute an information processing method as set forth in Claim 22.

24.   (Currently Amended) An information processing method according to Claim 22, wherein, from the information read from the portable information storage medium, software identification information and location information [[on]] <u>of</u> a location on the network of the software are extracted and managed in said software management step.

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25. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 24, wherein, based on an instruction from said software management step, said information transfer unit step accesses the server by using the location information, and downloads, into the internal storage medium, software represented by the software identification information.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 22, wherein, when the portable information storage medium is disconnected while the software downloaded into the internal storage medium is being executed, said software management step performs an interruption process for interrupting execution of the software downloaded into the internal storage medium.

28. and 29. (Canceled)